

Current Claims (005127.00349)

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

positioning a parison between a first portion and a corresponding second portion of a mold, the first portion and the second portion of the mold defining a cavity with a shape of the chamber;

pressurizing an interior of the parison;

shaping opposite sides of the parison to form the chamber within the cavity, the chamber having a first surface, an opposite second surface, and a sidewall extending between the first surface and the second surface; and

bonding the opposite sides of the parison together to define a parting line in the sidewall of the chamber, the parting line having at least a first part that is adjacent the first surface, a second part that is adjacent the second surface, and a third part that extends from the first part to the second part, and the parting line extending around a majority of the chamber to separate the chamber from excess portions of the parison; and

removing the excess portions of the parison.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear and wave-like configuration to the parting line.

15. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, further including a step of providing the mold to have protrusions formed on one of the first portion and the second portion and indentations formed in the other of the first portion and the second portion, the indentations being positioned to receive the protrusions.

16. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the step of providing the mold includes ~~locating surfaces of the indentations and protrusions separate from surfaces of the mold that form the chamber defining surfaces of the protrusions and indentations, a first portion of the surfaces forming surfaces of the cavity, and a second portion of the surfaces being separate from the surfaces of the cavity.~~

17. (Original) The method recited in claim 15, further including a step of bending the parison with the protrusions and the indentations.

18. (Original) The method recited in claim 17, wherein the step of bending the parison includes extending the parison around the protrusions and into the indentations.

19. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber to have a plurality of lobes that extend outward from a central area of the chamber.

20. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber such that at least one of the first surface and the second surface of the chamber has a curved configuration.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

positioning a parison between a first portion and a corresponding second portion of a mold, the parison having a first side that faces the first portion, and the parison having a second side that faces the second portion;

pressurizing an interior of the parison to expand a size of the parison;

shaping the parison to define a first surface, a second surface, and a sidewall of the chamber; and

bonding the first side of the parison to the second side of the parison to form a parting line between the first side and the second side of the parison, the parting line being at least partially located within the sidewall, and the parting line having a portion that extends from the first surface to the second surface of the chamber, the parting line separating the chamber from excess portions of the parison that extend around substantially all of the chamber; and

removing the excess portions of the parison.

22. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 21, further including a step of shaping the mold to include protrusions formed on one of the first portion and the second portion, and shaping the mold to include indentations formed in the other of the first portion and the second portion, the indentations being positioned to receive the protrusions.

23. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 22, wherein the step of providing the mold includes ~~locating surfaces of the indentations and protrusions separate from surfaces of the mold that form the chamber defining surfaces of the protrusions and indentations, a first portion of the surfaces forming surfaces of the cavity, and a second portion of the surfaces being separate from the surfaces of the cavity.~~

24. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 22, further including a step of bending the parison with the protrusions and the indentations as the first portion and the second portion translate toward each other and extending the parison around the protrusions and into the indentations.

25. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber to have a plurality of lobes that extend outward from a central area of the chamber.

26. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber such that at least one surface of the chamber has a curved configuration.

27. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to have portions positioned adjacent the first surface and other portions positioned adjacent the second surface.

28. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to have a wave-like configuration that extends alternately and repeatedly from the first surface to the second surface and from the second surface to the first surface.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes non-centrally locating the parting line with respect to the first surface and the second surface of the chamber.

31. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear and wave-like configuration to the parting line.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

providing a mold having a first portion and a corresponding second portion, one of the first portion and the second portion including protrusions, and the other of the first portion and the second portion including indentations that receive the protrusions, ~~the indentations and the protrusions having surfaces that are located separate from only a portion of the surfaces defining each of the indentations and the protrusions also forming surfaces of the mold that form the chamber;~~

positioning a parison between the first portion and the second portion of the mold, the parison having a first side that faces the first portion and the parison having a second side that faces the second portion;

pressurizing an interior of the parison;

bending the parison around the protrusions and into the indentations as the first portion and the second portion translate toward each other and contact the parison;

shaping the parison to form a first surface from the first side and a second surface from the second side, the first side and the second side being interlaced to form at least a portion of a sidewall of the chamber; and

bonding opposite sides of the parison together to define a parting line extending around a majority of the chamber, the parting line separating the chamber from excess portions of the parison; and

removing the excess portions of the parison.

33. (Original) The method recited in claim 32, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber to have a plurality of lobes that extend outward from a central area of the chamber.

34. (Original) The method recited in claim 32, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber such that at least one surface of the chamber has a curved configuration.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 35 32, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to extend between the interlaced first side and second side.

37. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 35 32, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to extend from the first surface to the second surface of the chamber.

38. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 35 32, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear configuration to the parting line.

39. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 35 32, wherein the step of bonding includes locating the parting to have at least a first part that is adjacent the first surface, a second part that is adjacent the second surface, and a third part that extends from the first part to the second part.

40. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 35 32, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear and wave-like configuration to the parting line.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

positioning a parison between a first portion and a corresponding second portion of a mold;

pressurizing an interior of the parison;

bending the parison with contours of the mold as the first portion and the second portion translate toward each other, the contours of the mold having surfaces that are positioned separate from surfaces of a cavity within the mold, the cavity having a shape of the chamber;

shaping opposite sides of the parison to form the chamber within the cavity; and
bonding the opposite sides of the parison together to define a parting line with a portion that extends from a first side to an opposite second side of the bladder chamber, and the parting line extending around a majority of the chamber to separate the chamber from excess portions of the parison; and

removing the excess portions of the parison.